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Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-fourth session

Rapporteur: Mr. Hitoshi **Kozaki** (Japan)

Draft report

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007
Part two: biennial programme plan

(Item 3 (b))

Programme 14
Economic and social development in Africa

1. At its 11th meeting, on 16 June 2004, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 14, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 14)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 14 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Satisfaction was expressed with the lucid, detailed and comprehensive presentation of the programme of work. The focus of programme 14 on critical interventions aimed at reversing the current conditions in Africa and putting African countries on a path of sustainable development was welcomed. Yet another view expressed scepticism on the relevance of the biennial programme plan and suggested its further review at a possible resumed session of the Committee.

4. Satisfaction was expressed with the progress that the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has made to align the overall objective of its programme with the goals and priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and

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the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992. It was noted with appreciation that the review conducted by ECA after the adoption of NEPAD by the African Union had culminated in the restructuring of the programme by consolidating subprogrammes and the creation of a new one, which were interdependent and complimentary and also resulted in reorientation of the work programme to reflect the goals of NEPAD. The view was expressed that ECA would play a key role in fulfilling NEPAD agenda.

5. The view was also expressed that, in the overall orientation, the mainstreaming into national policies of all components of sustainable development in Africa, including environment, economic and social areas and human resources development, should be properly reflected, namely in paragraph 14.4 (c) and (f).

6. The view was expressed that while ECA had received the additional and very important mandate for overseeing coordination and collaboration concerning NEPAD among the entities of the United Nations at the regional level, it was also important that the Commission collaborate with regional organizations, regional economic communities and national organizations. The efforts to achieve coherence between global and regional priorities and to avoid duplication were welcomed. It was emphasized that more attention should be given to coordination with other United Nations entities, especially other regional commissions, while the view was expressed that the various partners of ECA should be mentioned in paragraph 14.8.

7. The view was expressed that some objectives and expected accomplishments were too broad, ambitious, formulated well beyond the ECA capacities, and should be modified to be clearer, more realistic and more specific.

8. The view was expressed that the indicators of achievement were too general and abstract, without tangible targets, baseline and performance measures, and did not have any links either to the 2002-2003 programme performance report or to the 2004-2005 programme budget, and should be amended to be more precise and reconciled with the scope of expected accomplishments and strategies. A question was raised on some of the challenges faced by ECA in implementing result-based budgeting.

9. The view was also expressed that unless essential resources were provided to NEPAD the entire programme would not be effectively implemented.

10. It was emphasized that vigorous action to address the challenge of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other infectious diseases formed an essential component of the work of the Commission. Focus on HIV/AIDS and governance in Africa in several subprogrammes was welcomed. The view was expressed that the outcome of the high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS held in September 2003 in New York should be mentioned in the programme.

11. The view was expressed that while the main emphasis was placed on reduction of poverty, the programme should also focus on resource mobilization and direct investment.

12. The view was expressed that, under subprogramme 2, in "Objective of the Organization", the words "nexus of food security, population, human settlements, natural resources and the environment" should be replaced with the words

"sustainable development, including human resources development". The view was expressed that the strategy and indicators of achievement under this subprogramme could also refer to the organization by ECA of regional implementation meetings for follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The view was also expressed that the expected accomplishments under subprogramme 2 should be amended to include a reference to the application of science and technology, which was reflected in paragraph 14.10 (c) of the strategy.

13. The view was also expressed that, under subprogramme 5, the strategy should include, besides air transport, the reference to equally important areas in the transport sector.

14. The view was expressed that, under subprogramme 6, the strategy should also reflect the important role of the African Centre for Gender and Development in assisting the African Union and African regional organizations in the implementation of NEPAD, developing their respective gender policy frameworks and mainstreaming a gender perspective into their policies and programmes.

15. The role of ECA in the work of the Committee for Peace and Development, which has been mandated to ensure the participation of women in peace talks and all conflict management and peacekeeping mechanisms, was stressed, and ECA was encouraged to continue to focus on this area.

Conclusions and recommendations

16. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 14, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Throughout the programme, the words "the Millennium Development Goals" should be replaced with the words "internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992".

The Committee also recommended that the Commission, in the implementation of programme 14, take into account the special needs of the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries in Africa.

Subprogramme 1

Indicator of achievement (b)

After the words "by national statistical offices", add the words "which have been implemented for tracking progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals".

Expected accomplishment of the Secretariat (b) and Indicator of achievement (b)

Replace the words "the Millennium Development Goals" with the words "internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992".

Subprogramme 2

Expected accomplishment of the Secretariat (a)

After the words "food security", add the words "science and technology".

Paragraph 14.11

At the end of the paragraph, add the words "and organizing regional implementation meetings for follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development".

Subprogramme 4

Objective of the Organization

Replace the word "sustain" with the words "further strengthen".

Subprogramme 6

Paragraph 14.15 (c)

At the end of the subparagraph, add the words "conflict resolution and peace processes".

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Proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007

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Programme 15
Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

1. At its 11th and 12th meetings, on 16 June 2004, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 15, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 15)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 15 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the biennial programme plan under programme 15, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, and the view was expressed that great importance attached to the programme. The revitalization of the programme structure as well as of the conference structure was welcomed.

4. Appreciation was expressed for the extensive intergovernmental consultations held in the preparation of the strategic framework. The view was expressed that it reflects the mandates of the Commission precisely and in a concise manner. It was

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noted with satisfaction that the document is comprehensive, in-depth, realistic and user-friendly. Significant progress in results-based management was also noted.

5. Support was also expressed for the three thematic priorities: poverty reduction; managing globalization; and addressing emerging social issues.

6. The important role of the Commission in promoting economic and social development was noted, in particular, considering that the largest number of people living below the poverty level is in the Asia and Pacific region. The Commission was commended for its role in facilitating the Asian Highway Agreement, the new "silk route", connecting Asia to Europe.

7. The participation of civil society organizations in the activities of the Commission was welcomed and it was encouraged to develop appropriate mechanisms to make their participation more productive and constructive.

8. It was noted that the Commission has undertaken efforts to avoid overlap and to coordinate its activities with other relevant bodies, in particular between the Statistics Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the secretariat of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, the Economic Cooperation Council and the secretariat of the Pacific Community, as mentioned in paragraph 15.14. The view was expressed that expected accomplishments (a) and (b) of subprogramme 2 appear similar. The view was also expressed that the Commission should continue to pursue the coordination and demarcation of roles. It was hoped that the Asian Highway Agreement would be signed by more countries and would contribute to the promotion of transportation in the region, as was expressed in the resolution adopted by the Commission at its sixtieth session, held in Shanghai in April 2004.

9. The view was expressed that there should be adequate coordination between the existing agencies and organizations dealing with information and communications, including the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity. It was also stated that activities under this subprogramme should be conducted taking due consideration of the discussions and opinions of experts in such fields.

10. Concern was expressed over the use of the term "human security" since this term is still the subject of debate in the General Assembly.

Conclusions and recommendations

11. **The Committee recognized the importance of pilot programmes and the exchange of information on best practices in enhancing the impact of the work of the Commission.**

12. **The Committee recommended adherence to clear rules for involvement of civil society organizations in the activities of the Commission, as is the case in other United Nations bodies.**

13. **The Committee recognized that in implementing a "rights-based approach", it is important to take into account the nature of economic, social and cultural rights, which need to be progressively attained, within capacities of national resources and with assistance in terms of international cooperation.**

14. The Committee recognized the increased coordination of the Commission's activities with other United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies and encouraged continued partnerships in order to enhance their impact and avoid any possible duplication.

15. The Committee recognized the role of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology in the implementation of subprogramme 7, Information, communication and space technology.

16. The Committee recognized that the inclusion of the reference to "human security" in this programme does not imply the acceptance of such a concept by the General Assembly. In this regard, the Committee stressed that no decision has been taken on this matter and that this reference, as included in a resolution adopted by the Commission at its sixtieth session, applies only to programme 15.

17. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 15, Economic and social development for Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications.

Paragraph 15.3

At the end of the paragraph, add the phrase ", as recognized by ESCAP".

Paragraph 15.9

Delete the first sentence and replace it with: "As a matter of priority, gender dimensions and the rights-based as well as development-based approaches for persons with disabilities will be mainstreamed across relevant subprogrammes."[1]

Paragraph 15.11

In the last sentence, replace "Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific" with "Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific".

Subprogramme 2
Statistics

Objective of the Organization: At the end of the sentence, insert the words ", at the request of members and associate members".

Subprogramme 5
Transport and tourism

Paragraph 15.23

Delete the existing paragraph 15.23 (b) and replace it with the following: "Assistance to improve capacity at the national level, at the request of

[1] ESCAP resolutions 58/4 and 59/3.

members and associate members, for regular monitoring and analysis of transport and tourism issues, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition and, in particular, in least developed, landlocked developing and small island developing States";

Delete the existing paragraph 15.23 (e) and replace it with the following: "Promotion of wider participation of all stakeholders, in accordance with rules and procedures, in public/private partnerships in the implementation of policies and decisions."

Subprogramme 6
Environment and sustainable development

Under expected accomplishments of the Secretariat (a), delete the words "the integration of".

Paragraph 15.25

(*a*) After the words "Johannesburg Plan of Implementation" delete the words to the end of the paragraph.

(*c*) Delete the existing paragraph and replace it with the following: "Assisting member and associate member States in regular monitoring of environmental trends, the implementation of global environmental agreements and any reporting requirements."

(*e*) Delete the existing paragraph and replace it with the following: "Supporting those arrangements for regional and subregional cooperation in energy and water resources and environmental protection that are entered into by member States."

Legislative mandates

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

To the list of existing resolutions, add the following:

60/1 Shanghai Declaration

60/3 Work of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in implementing its technical cooperation projects

Subprogramme 1
Poverty and development

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

To the list of existing resolutions, add the following:

60/5 Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific

Subprogramme 3
Development of Pacific island countries and territories

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

To the list of existing resolutions, add the following:

60/6 Revitalization of the United Nations ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre

60/7 Pacific Urban Agenda

Subprogramme 5
Transport and tourism

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

To the existing resolutions, add the following:

60/4 Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network

Subprogramme 8
Social development, including persistent and emerging issues

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

To the list of existing resolutions, add the following:

60/2 Regional call for action to enhance capacity-building in public health

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Programme 16
Economic development in Europe

1. At its 12th meeting, on 16 June 2004, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 16, Economic development in Europe, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 16)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 16 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the programme of work of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), in particular the ECE decision (E/2004/37) to commission a comprehensive report on the state of ECE by a team of independent experts for the sixtieth annual session of the Commission, in early 2005. The view was expressed that the recommendations resulting from the external review should be incorporated into the proposed biennial programme plan for programme 16, Economic development in Europe, for 2006-2007.

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4. The efforts of ECE to work more closely with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) were welcomed, again with a view to incorporating the elements of any future memorandum of understanding between ECE and OSCE into the biennial programme plan for programme 16, Economic development in Europe, for 2006-2007.

5. It was noted that the development and integration of countries with economies in transition, in the context of the continued enlargement of the European Union, had remained a key aspect of the ECE proposed programme of work. The view was expressed that ECE recognized the special needs of countries with economies in transition who were not members of the European Union and continued to strengthen its assistance and support to that group.

6. The view was expressed that in regard to subprogramme 2, Transport, countries with economies in transition of the region, in particular landlocked developing countries, benefited from the activities being undertaken by ECE. The view was also expressed that a reference to the outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation should be included in the biennial programme plan for programme 16, Economic development in Europe, for the period 2006-2007.

7. The question was raised as to why the biennial programme plan for programme 16, Economic development in Europe, contained no reference to HIV/AIDS and its economic impact on Europe. The view was further expressed that combating HIV/AIDS remained one of the longer-term objectives of the United Nations as well as one of the Millennium Development Goals and should be incorporated into the programme's strategic framework.

8. Questions were raised regarding the meaning of an environmental dimension of security in the region.

9. Support was expressed for the collaboration of the ECE Statistics Committee with the Conference of European Statisticians and for the capacity-building activities that it provided to developing countries. Support was also expressed for the promotion of fundamental principles of official statistics as a part of capacity-building and technical assistance.

10. The continued importance of the activities of ECE in the area of sustainable energy in the region was recognized. It was recommended that these continue to receive significant support, including activities related to coal, thermal power and electricity, as well as the work in the field of gas, energy efficiency and other results-oriented activities.

11. ECE was encouraged to collaborate closely with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to continue providing technical assistance and capacity-building in improving urban planning, particularly in the newly emerging economies. Land administration was perceived as a fundamental building block for economic development, and ECE was encouraged to branch out from cadastre management to sharing best practices in private property/commercial court management in order to streamline land and property dispute resolutions.

Conclusions and recommendations

12. **The Committee recalled the recommendation contained in paragraphs 337 and 338 of its report on its forty-third session, and in that context welcomed the decision of ECE to request a report on ECE with the aim of developing recommendations to determine what changes to the role, mandate and functions of ECE were necessary in the light of the changes in the European institutional architecture since ECE was created almost 60 years previously.**

13. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 16, Economic development in Europe, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Subprogramme 1

Paragraph 16.9

At the end of the paragraph, add the following new sentence: "These activities will be undertaken in cooperation with other relevant organizations working in the region".

Subprogramme 2

Paragraph 16.11

At the end of the penultimate sentence, add the words "in particular in landlocked developing countries as a follow-up to the Almaty Programme of Action".

Subprogramme 4

Paragraph 16.17

At the end of the paragraph, add the following new sentence: "In undertaking this work, the Division will do its part to ensure that its work does not duplicate that done by other organizations and provides clear value added, with a focus on those subregions of ECE that are not covered by other organizations".

Subprogramme 7

Paragraph 16.23

After the first sentence, add the following new sentence: "The work will be carried out in conjunction with relevant FAO and ILO activities".

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Programme 17
Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

1. At its 12th meeting, on 16 June 2004, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 17, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 17)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 17 highlighting the priorities defined by Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) member States, namely, integration and trade, enhancing the region's productive structure, social equity and cohesion, international migration and sustainable development. The representative also referred to progress made in the area of coordination among regional commissions in the recent past and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

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Discussion

3. Strong support was expressed for programme 17, the contributions of which to the economic and social development of the Latin America and Caribbean region were commended. The work of ECLAC as a centre of excellence was also commended, and the view was expressed that the reiterated use of the term "stakeholders" to refer to beneficiaries of ECLAC services and contributions was an illustration of the firm commitment of the Commission to the countries of the region and the wide range of actors involved in the development process of the Latin America and Caribbean region. The indispensable value of ECLAC in the Latin America and Caribbean region was also stressed.

4. Views were expressed concerning the need to strengthen the role of the regional commissions both in the follow-up to the internationally agreed development goals of the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of the international conferences and summits sponsored by the United Nations in the economic and social field since 1992 and also as the entities in the best position in the United Nations system to harmonize national agendas and global issues at the regional level. The view was also expressed that ECLAC should strengthen its national offices and its role in formulating measures to solve the economic and social development of the countries of the region. The importance of enhancing coordination among the regional commissions was stressed. ECLAC was further invited to fully use the existing forums and mechanisms to reinforce the direct dialogue with representatives of Member States at United Nations Headquarters.

5. The view was expressed that more emphasis should have been placed, in the overall orientation of the programme, on the outcome and follow-up to the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development, particularly with respect to the elimination of hunger and poverty, achieving gender equity and adopting sustainable development patterns. As to the logical framework of the programme, the view was expressed that a better balance among the strategies, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievements should be pursued. The view was also expressed that paragraph 17.4 should have contained a special reference to landlocked countries and small island developing States.

6. Regarding subprogramme 1, ECLAC was called upon to continue its contributions to foster integration at the regional and subregional levels and to pay more attention to the impact of the proliferation of bilateral integration agreements in the region in the context of open regionalism. Concern was expressed over an apparent problem of translation in the Spanish version of the objective of subprogramme 1, that should be modified to reflect the intention of harmonizing and improving the links of national economies with the global economy.

7. The view was expressed that the elimination of poverty should be added as the ultimate goal in the objective of subprogramme 4, while the particular value of the subprogramme to the countries of the region was expressed. Concern was expressed regarding the rights-based approach to development mentioned in the strategy for subprogramme 4. The views expressed on subprogramme 5 concerned seeking a better balance between gender and family issues, the use of lessons learned and the work being done under the subprogramme to achieve social and women's equity in the countries of the region.

8. With respect to subprogramme 6, the view was expressed that there should be more emphasis on international migration following the priorities explained by the United Nations Secretariat. The view was also expressed that ECLAC should improve the dissemination of information on the organization and convening of courses by ILPES to allow all countries of the region to benefit from them. As to subprogramme 8, the need to improve coordination with the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme was stressed.

9. Expressions of support were made for subprogramme 12 and for the ECLAC-led follow-up activities to review the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, while the view was expressed that specific mention of the Programme of Action should have been made in the subprogramme. Several delegations strongly supported the request to give priority and reinforce the work that ECLAC carried out under subprogramme 12 regarding the effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the Caribbean through joint actions and increased cooperation with other agencies specifically concerned with the subject. The view was expressed that there was a need to improve the links and balance of strategies, objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement throughout the programme.

10. A number of delegations supported the initiative to . create a new subprogramme especially devoted to carrying out subregional activities in South America, based on comparable experiences for Central America and the Caribbean. The view was expressed that the subprogramme should eventually encompass the Andean and Mercosur subregions due to the increasing commonalities among this grouping of countries, as illustrated by, inter alia, national initiatives for the eradication of hunger, the international humanitarian fund, common approaches to water and sanitation issues, coordinated efforts to combat international drug trafficking and shared management of the Amazon forest.

11. Several views called upon ECLAC to take an active role in the stabilization process of Haiti to bring the regional dimension of the United Nations efforts in this matter of outmost importance to the region. One delegation, on behalf of the group of friends of Haiti, expressed the view that ECLAC should provide inputs for the long-term Economic and Social Council programme for Haiti, which closely involved the participation of Latin America and the Caribbean, the latter represented by the Caribbean Community.

12. The view was expressed that more emphasis should be made to encourage and facilitate the sharing of best practices and lessons learned among business and private-sector actors and public administration authorities instead of promoting meetings of experts and academics. The view was further expressed that ECLAC should make more efforts to assist countries of the region in combating corruption and to focus on the efficient use of public sector resources by national administrations.

Conclusions and recommendations

13. **The Committee noted with appreciation the strategic framework for ECLAC under programme 17, which takes into account the objectives of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the need for supporting initiatives of the countries in the region in order to achieve the objectives related to a**

better insertion in the global economy, human and social development, regional integration, and strengthening of trade systems with a view to achieving social equality and environmental sustainability. The Committee highlighted the importance of the regional and subregional perspective in implementing those goals, and emphasized the need to strengthen the programmes and activities conducted by headquarters, subprogrammes and regional offices related to supporting closer links between subregional trade blocs, the eradication of poverty and hunger and a better infrastructure in sanitation.

14. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 17, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed biennial programme plan.**